

# A LOOK AT SAN DIEGO

## Latinx Students are a Critical Mass of the San Diego Region

### Introduction

San Diego is home to a vibrant bilingual, bicultural, multi-racial transborder community and culture, with a long history of educational activism and community engagement.

The Latinx community represents over 33% of San Diego county's population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018), with this population expanding through a combination of birth rates, regional migration and immigration.

The Latinx population in San Diego county is represented throughout the county, with a sizable proportion of Latina/o/x residents in the border communities of Chula Vista, National City and San Ysidro.

### HSIs in San Diego

San Diego mirrors the state, with the majority of these colleges and universities HSI. In California, all public systems of education are now HSI systems (Contreras, 2018), across the K-12 and postsecondary sectors.

Over 55% of California's K-12 population is comprised of Latinx students. In addition, 6 out of 9 UCs (that grant undergraduate degrees), 21 out of 23 CSUs, and 94 out of 115 community colleges are HSIs.

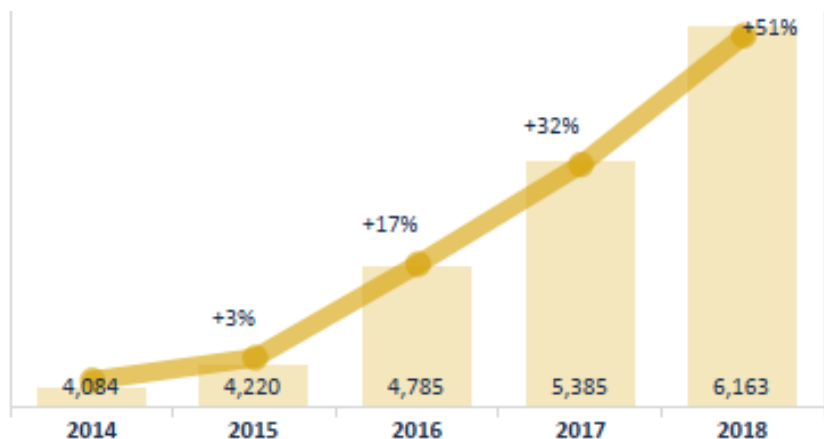
San Diego's higher education sector is diverse, with 3 public four-year universities, 5 private universities, and 7 community colleges. The majority of these colleges and universities (n=10) are HSIs, with UCSD an emerging HSI.

### UC San Diego as an Emerging HSI

UC San Diego has been working to examine and develop culturally responsive infrastructures to support Latinx student success. A team of faculty, administrators, and students have met over the past 2.5 years to ensure the university is intentional about being Latinx ready to optimally serve its growing Chicana/Latinx student population. These efforts complement the objectives laid out in the campus strategic plan, which call for UCSD to be a student-centered research university.

The Latinx undergraduate student enrollment at UC San Diego continues to increase, with Latinx undergraduate students now at 20%. In addition, over half of Latinx undergraduates are enrolled in STEM majors, mirroring the general campus, where approximately half of all students are majoring in STEM fields.

#### Growth in Latinx Undergraduates, 2014-2018



Source: UC San Diego Office of Institutional Research

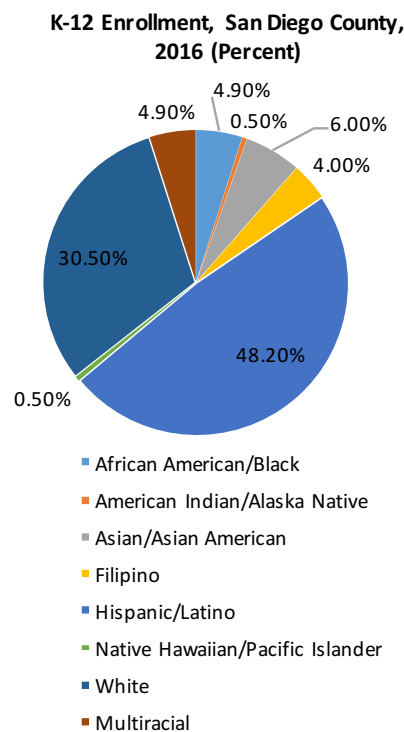
#### UCSD Launches a Latinx Academic Excellence Initiative

In an effort to strategically plan for HSI status, and continuous growth in the Latinx pool of undergraduates, UCSD's Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion is launching a Latinx Academic Excellence Initiative (LAEI), to develop a comprehensive student-centered campus infrastructure that focuses on student success and cultivates the next generation of Latinx thought, industry and community leaders.

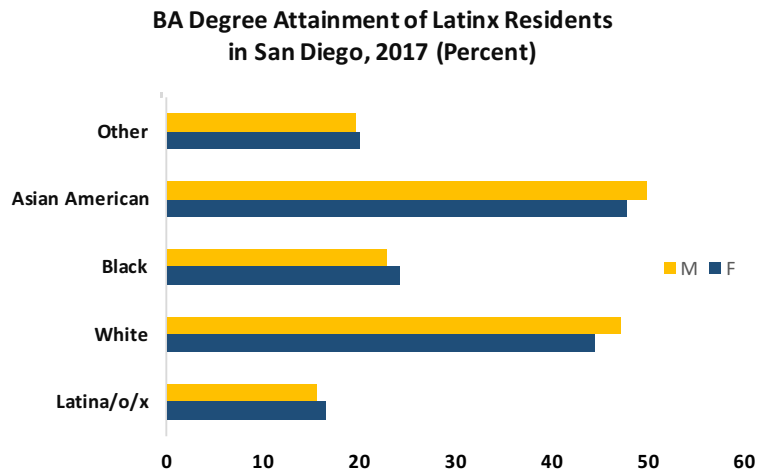
## San Diego has a rich history of non-profits

San Diego is home to a thriving non-profit sector that has been serving the region for decades. Many have impacted the Latinx community in the area of civil rights, immigrant rights, parent networks, and K-12 arenas. Among the most notable are:

- PIQE (Parent Institute for Quality Education)
- AVID
- MANA San Diego
- Reality Changers
- Barrio Logan College Institute (BLCI)
- Chicano Federation
- Border Angels



Latinas/os represent 48% of the county’s K-12 population, and the largest pool of high school graduates. However, educational attainment remains a challenge for Latinx residents in San Diego county, with 16.4% of Latinas and 15.6% of Latinos earning a Bachelor’s degree or higher in 2017. As seen in the case of higher education nationally and in California, Latinas are outpacing Latinos in college enrollment and BA degree attainment in San Diego.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

As a result, a number of organizations, including Reality Changers, BLCI, UCSD’s CREATE, among others, are working to provide academic supports to K-12 students to raise college readiness and transition rates. Additionally, organizations such as PIQE and AVID have created local and national models for engaging Latina/o/x students and parents to know their rights when interacting with public schools as well as supports to help their children thrive. Together, these efforts, in partnership with local universities, are helping to prepare students and families for successful college transition.

UCSD’s *Latinx Academic Excellence Initiative* (LAEI) acknowledges and builds upon this important work, with the understanding that when a Latinx student goes to college, the entire *familia* goes with them.

On behalf of the UC San Diego host team, *bienvenido a San Diego!* And welcome to the UC Chicana/Latinx Leadership Summit 2018!

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